



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

5th March 2021

Returning to school plan

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

I wrote to you recently to outline our plan to bring students back using a staggered start on the following days:

Monday 8th March	Year 11
Tuesday 9th March	Year 10
Wednesday 10th March	Year 9
Thursday 11th March	Year 7
Friday 12th March	Year 8

Yesterday we had a trial run of our testing centre. We are expecting to get through 44 students an hour. Therefore, we need to stagger the start times for students on each day. For **year 11 returning on Monday the 8th March** we are asking for the following students to return at the designated times:

- 8.40am** - All year 11 students who get a bus to school
- 9.10am** - Mrs. Gibson's maths class
- 9.40am** - Mr. Creegan's and Mr. Davey's maths classes
- 10.10am** - Miss. Bateman's and Mr. Baker's maths class
- 10.40am** - Mr. Allan's maths class

They need to enter the school through the side gate which is between the gym and the house area of the school. Can you please remind your child that they will need to ensure they keep their social distance from other students and wear their face covering. Members of staff will meet them as they enter. Students will then proceed to enter the gym using the one way system to carry out their test. Whilst waiting for their results, they will be sat socially distanced in the sports hall. Once the test result comes back, negative students will go to their maths class.

If your child tests positive, we will contact you to get them picked up. If you consent they can make their own way home but they are not allowed to get public transport. They will then need to self isolate for 10 days until the 19th of March.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. **Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.** This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees

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- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, you can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect all members of TeamTanfield.

Advice for travelling to school:

- Students who live a short distance from school, should walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of their household or support bubble
- Students should avoid using public transport to get to school
- When students are travelling by dedicated school transport, they should not forget to: sit in their year group zone (which will be clearly marked); wear a face covering for the entirety of the journey; social distance where possible; wash or sanitise hands regularly and be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

If your child develops symptoms can you please ensure that they do not come into school. **They should not come into school for a test.** Instead a test should be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119.

We are asking students to wear their full uniform when attending school as this is a big part of being in TeamTanfield. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

The high expectations of our behaviour and uniform policy remain the same.

Finally, we want to thank you for the continued support you have given over the last few weeks. It has meant a lot. However, if there is anything you think we can do better, please let us know by using the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email address.

We will continue to keep you updated with any further developments.

Until then, I wish you and your families all the best.


Take care and stay safe,





Mr S Clough
Headteacher

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